

PATENT
Docket No. 325772035200

CERTIFICATE OF HAND DELIVERY

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being hand filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office in Alexandria, Virginia on March 31, 2004.

Geraldine Maddox

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Makiko TANGO et al.

Serial No.: New Application

Filing Date: March 31, 2004

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARTUS

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the document be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed together with the application accordingly, no fee is due.

A copy of the documents listed on the PTO/SB/08 is attached.

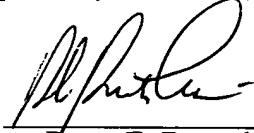
While the information and document disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed documents.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing **325772035200**.

Dated: March 31, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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| Form PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | | Docket Number 325772035200 | | Application Number Not Yet Assigned | |
| | | Applicant | | Makiko TANGO et al. | |
| | | Filing Date March 31, 2004 | | Group Art Unit Not Yet Assigned | |
| | | Mailing Date March 31, 2004 | | | |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Ref. No. | Date | Document No. | Name | Class | Subclass | Filing Date If Appropriate |
|-------------------|----------|------|--------------|------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Ref. No. | Date | Document No. | Country | Class | Subclass | Translation YES NO |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|---------|-------|----------|--------------------|
| 1. | 09/01/1988 | 63-210862 | Japan | | | | Abstract |
| 2. | 12/22/1994 | 63-348105 | Japan | | | | Abstract |
| 3. | 10/03/2002 | 2002-287599 | Japan | | | | |
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OTHER DOCUMENTS

(including author, title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

| Examiner Initials | Ref. No. | Title |
|-------------------|----------|-------|
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EXAMINER:**DATE CONSIDERED:**

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not the citation conforms with MPEP 609. Draw a line through the citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.